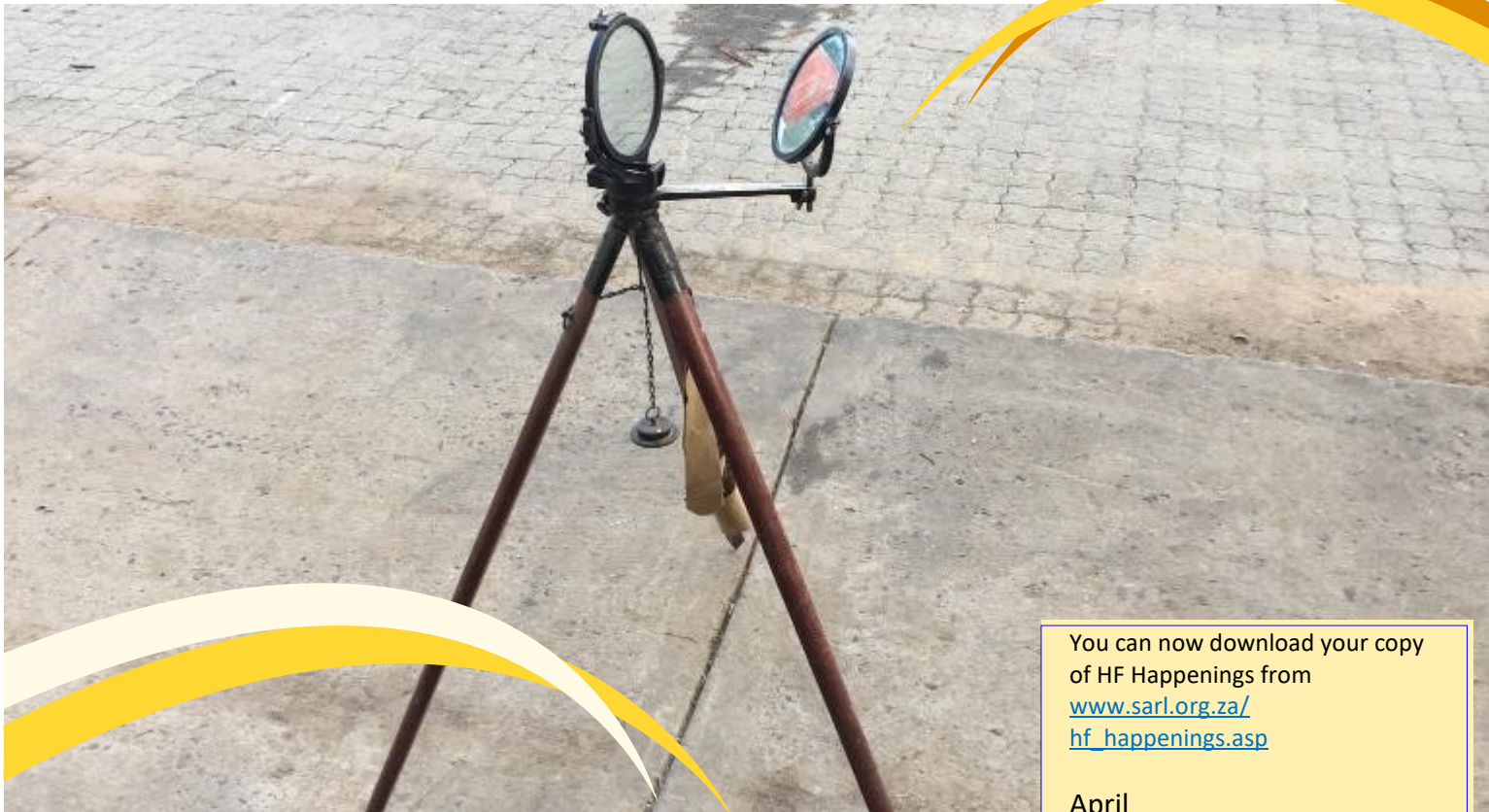


HF Happenings 750

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

Volume 15, Issue 13, the week of 24 April 2017



Elecraft KPA1500 Amplifier

Elecraft kicked off the season of *new things* with the announcement of a new 1 500-watt amplifier during the just concluded Visalia DX Convention. The solid-state KPA1500 covers 160 – 6 metres and includes a built-in auto tuner. A separate power supply is required and will be available. The introductory price is \$5995. The amplifier has not yet received FCC approval and cannot be offered for sale until that authorization has been obtained.

This new solid-state equipment has the AMPS mailing list buzzing about the *sun setting* on tube type HF PA's and analogue front-end transceivers.



Mark, G4FPH wrote, "I think we are truly seeing the sun setting on valve HF PA and analogue front-end transceivers. The combination of big LDMOS FET and majority DSP

(Continued on page 2)

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from
www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

April

to 9 April - Stars of Sandstone, Ficksburg

1 - **RaDAR Challenge**; April Fools Day

6 - van Riebeeck Day; **SARL 80 m QSO Party**

8 - **Autumn QRP Sprint**

8 to 15 Klein-Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees

11 to 17 - Pesach

13 - Holy Thursday

14 - Good Friday

14 to 16 - Slow festival, Sedgfield

15 - Two Oceans Marathon

16 - Easter Sunday

17 - Family Day

18 - **World Amateur Radio Day**; All Schools open

21 - **RAE Registration closes**

21 to 29 joBerg2C

22 - SARL Noise Floor Workshop

23 - **ZS4 Sprint**

24 - Isra and Mi'raj; **Closing date for articles for the May Radio ZS**

24 to 30 - AfrikaBurn, Tankwa Karoo

27 - Freedom Day

27 to 30 - Karoo Food Festival,

(Continued from page 1)

TRx, with whole-chain linearity correction, is delivering some of the cleanest SSB signals ever heard on the amateur bands. It's still fun to play with those examples from the last 50 years of our history though!"

Caister Marconi radio station contacts nearly 200 amateurs in 35 countries

Radio amateurs at the Caister Lifeboat Visitor Centre in Norfolk managed to contact 193 other radio amateurs in 35 different countries on Saturday 22 April 2017 when they took part in the annual International Marconi Day to mark the inventor's birthday. Using the call GBOCMS and a mixture of Morse code, telephony (speech) and data (PSK teletype), contacts were made with other radio amateurs across the UK, Europe, Australia and the USA. Notable contacts were with other special Marconi stations in the UK, Italy, and Ireland.

The Norfolk Amateur Radio Club (NARC) ran the all-day special event station at Caister Lifeboat to commemorate the village's original Marconi Wireless Station, which was established at Caister in 1900. The station was in a house in the High Street known as Pretoria Villa and its original purpose was to communicate with ships in the North Sea and the Cross Sands lightship.

On Saturday, the closest to Guglielmo Marconi's birthday, stations around the world are set up at sites with historical links to the inventor's work. These include Poldhu in England; Cape Cod Massachusetts; Glace Bay, Nova Scotia; Villa Griffone, Bologna, Italy and many others.

Visitors to the station including many other local radio amateurs and members of the public.

NARC public relation officer Steve Nichols, who organised the event, said, "Conditions weren't brilliant due to a solar disturbance, but we started off by talking to Ian, VK3MO, an amateur near Melbourne, Australia.

We then went on to make contacts with other radio enthusiasts all over Europe and as far as North Carolina, USA, using speech and Morse code.

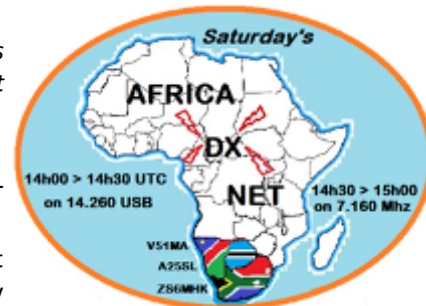
We never used more than 100 Watts power – about the same as an incandescent light bulb.

Our thanks go to Caister Lifeboat for letting us set up the station."

The equipment used was 100 W from an Icom IC-756 Pro3 (30/20 m) and Icom IC-7300 (40 m). Antennas were a W5GI dipole on 40m and G0KYA-designed monoband end-fed half-wave verticals for HF.

About Norfolk Amateur Radio Club:

The club has more than 100 members, a strong history dating back to the 1950s and has a very active calendar of talks, events, special event stations and courses. It meets at 19:00 on Wednesdays at the Sixth Form Common Room, City of Norwich School, Eaton Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 6PP, with formal proceedings starting at 19.45. The programme alternates weekly between talks or club challenges, and informal meetings with Morse tuition, electronic construction and "Bright Sparks" events for youngsters.



Cradock

28 - School Holiday
28 and 29 Prince Albert Town and Olive Festival
29 and 30 - Haenertsburg Food, Wine and Beer Festival; Pringle Bay Village Festival
30 - Knysna Motor Show

May

1 - Workers Day
5 and 6 - Riebeek Valley Olive Festival
5 to 7 - SARL National Convention
6 and 7 - AWA Valve QSO Party
7 - Ngwenya Country Market
14 - Mothers day
19 to 21 - Dayton Hamvention
20 - Radio Amateur Examination; Wakkerstroom Natural Fibre Handcraft Fair
21 - ZS3 Sprint
25 - Ascension Day; Closing date Radio ZS June
25 to 27 - Handcraft Exhibition, Fish Hoek
26 - Start of Ramadan
26 to 28 - SA Bike Festival, Kyalami
28 - SARL Digital Contest
31 - Republic Day; Shavuot



Further history of the original Marconi Wireless Station

The Caister station was connected by land line to Gt Yarmouth Post Office and the Caister Coast Guard Station. The main aerial mast behind the house was 150 feet high, the aerial wire being suspended between this and a slightly shorter mast situated on land where Lacon Road was later built.

The large front room of the house contained the main apparatus and was also used as the operating room. The engine for charging the accumulators was situated in a shed adjoining the house and the accu-

(Continued on page 3)

Rodney Hoffman, G0CBO, and Kim Medley, G4WUG, contact another other radio amateur in Italy with Morse code from station GBOCMS at Caister Lifeboat, Norfolk, on International Marconi Day, 22 April 2017

(Continued from page 2)

mulators themselves were housed in a specially constructed annex. The remainder of the premises were used as a dwelling house for the officer-in-charge.

The range of communication was 150 to 200 miles on the long wave (600 m) and 100 miles on the short wave (300 m). In 1909 all the Marconi coastal stations were taken over by the Post Office. In 1911 the Caister station was used to train lightship men in the use of telegraphy equipment.

In January 1915 the telegraph equipment on the Cross Sand lightship was transferred to the Parlour lightship and the Caister station was changed to 'general working' and not used for ship-to-shore work. Public use of the telegram facility provided at Caister was suspended for the duration of the WW1.

In 1921 plans were made for the reinstallation of wireless on Trinity House lightships, but this time the new wireless telephony was to replace telegraphy (Morse). New technology made the Caister station out of date and it finally closed in 1929. The masts were taken down and a few years later the house became the village Police Station.

(Historical details with thanks to local historian Colin Tooke.)

African DX

Morocco, CN. Carlos/CT1QP, Helder/CT1CDP, and Antonio/CT1CDU will be active with the calls CN2CL and CN2DP until 5 May. QSL for CN2DP via CT1CDP, CN2CL via CT1QP.

Guinea, 3X. Luc/F5RAV and Gerard/F5NVF are planning an operation from Guinea for October/November 2017 with the call 3XY4D. More information to follow.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Liberia, EL. A team of 5 operators plans a first activation of IOTA group AF-111 for some time later this year. Plans are to get on the air for 3 to 4 days from Baiyah Island.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 April to 1 May 2017

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 April 2017

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray:

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 28 April 2017

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member:
Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 29 April 2017
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 26 April
Geographic Focus: Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op
Unconnected - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if
low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 26 April 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: <http://logs.ukicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.ukicc.com/which-contest/which-contest-ukeicc-80-m-contests-rules>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 27 April
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: United Kingdom
Mode: RTTY, PSK
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 April 2017
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 April
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 April 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)



Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprInternationalcom/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 April
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 April 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprInternationalcom/rules.html>

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 April
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 3 May 2017
Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/waaaeo-sprint>

10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
00:01 UTC 29 April to 23:59 UTC 30 April
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 15 May 2017

E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org

Upload log at: <http://www.hamclubs.info/scorer/>

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>

Helvetia Contest

13:00 UTC 29 April to 12:59 UTC 30 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op High - CW, SSB or mixed; Single Op QRP Mixed; Multi-Op High - CW, SSB or mixed; SWL

Max operating hours: 18 with a maximum of two rest periods of any length

Exchange: HB: RS(T) and 2-letter canton; non-HB: RS(T) and serial no

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with HB; 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each canton once per band; Each DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 May 2017

E-mail logs to: contest@uska.ch

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.uska.ch/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/02-](http://www.uska.ch/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/02-HF-Contest-Rules-2017-English-20161107czf.pdf)

[HF Contest Rules 2017 English 20161107czf.pdf](http://www.uska.ch/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/02-HF-Contest-Rules-2017-English-20161107czf.pdf)

Florida QSO Party

16:00 UTC 29 April to 01:59 UTC 30 April and 12:00 - 21:59 UTC 30 April

Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m



Classes: Single Op - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Multi-Multi - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Mobile Single Op - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Mobile Single Op and Driver - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; Mobile Multi-Op - CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; School-CW, phone or mixed- QRP, low or high; SWL

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FL: RS(T) and county; W/VE: RS(T) and state or province; DX: RS(T) and DXCC prefix

Work stations: Once per band per mode per FL county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: FL Stations: Each state, VE province/territory, DXCC country, maritime region once per mode; Non-FL: Each county once per mode

Power: High: x1, Low: x2, QRP: x3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult

Submit logs by: 14 May 2017

E-mail logs to: logs@floridaqsoparty.org

Mail logs to: Florida QSO Party, c/o Ron Harps, K8NZ, 1997

Willow Glen Ln, Columbus, OH 43229-1550, USA

Find rules at: <http://floridaqsoparty.org/rules/>

AGCW QRP/QRP Party

13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May

Geographic Focus: Europe

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: 5W (A); 20W (B)

Exchange: RST, QSO no, "/" and class ID (A/B)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with class B; 2 points per QSO with class A

Multipliers: DXCC countries once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 May 2017

E-mail logs to: grp-party@agcw.de

Mail logs to: Manager, Udo Witte, DJ4FV, Sandbreite 7, D-49134 Wallenhorst, Germany

Find rules at: <http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/qrp-qrp-party>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 May

Geographic Focus: United Kingdom

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: United Kingdom

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 May 2017

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/r80mcc.shtml>

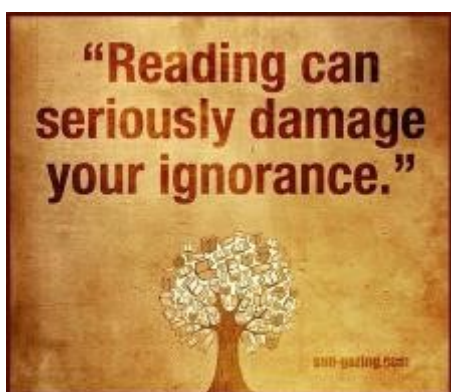
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Wild Atlantic Way - special callsigns

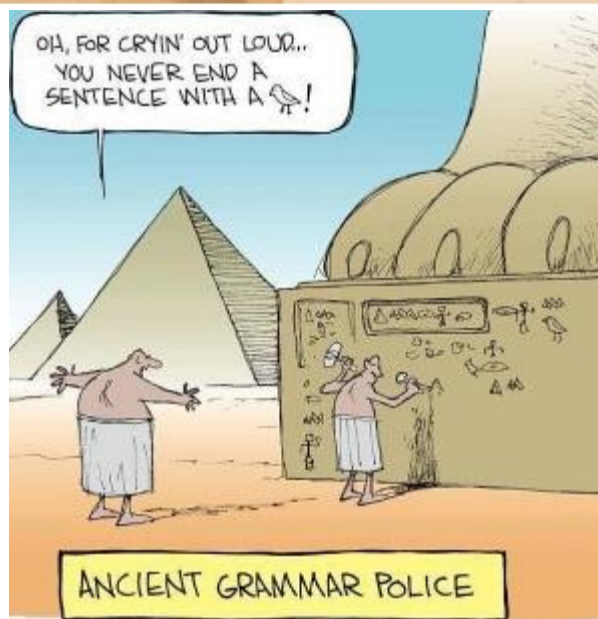
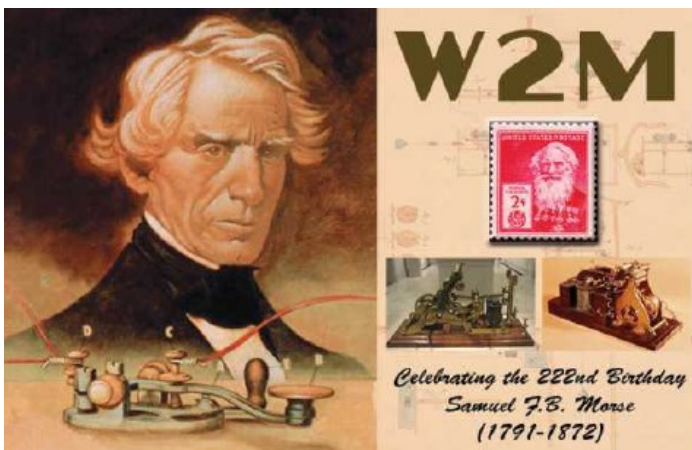
From 1 January to 31 December 2017, Irish Radio Amateurs will be on air with nine special callsigns - EI11WAW to EI99WAW. Each call will be associated with one of the counties making up the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. Each call sign will have its own distinctive QSL card depicting a highlight of the county linked to the call sign. QSL requests via ClubLog or the Bureau. For requests for a direct QSL via ClubLog or to EI6AL enclose \$2, or €2 via paypal to payments@irts.ie.

A Certificate will be made available for download to any station that works all nine calls, any band any mode. Apply by email to QSL manager EI6AL giving name and call. A certificate can also be sent by post - send €5 (\$5) to cover postage either through ClubLog, direct to EI6AL or via PayPal to payments@irts.ie. For more info, see QRZ.com under each special call sign.



Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 May
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 May
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 May
MIE 33 Contest, 23:00 UTC 3 May to 03:00 UTC 4 May
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW), 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (Dig) 4 May
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 May
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 May
Araucaria VHF Contest, 00:00 UTC 6 May to 16:00 UTC 7 May



10-10 International Spring CW Contest, 00:01 UTC 6 May to 23:59 UTC 7 May
ARI International DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 6 May to 11:59 UTC 7 May
F9AA Cup, PSK, 12:00 UTC 6 May to 12:00 UTC 7 May
7th Call Area QSO Party, 13:00 UTC 6 May to 07:00 UTC 7 May
Indiana QSO Party, 15:00 UTC 6 May to 03:00 UTC 7 May
Delaware QSO Party, 17:00 UTC 6 May to 23:59 UTC 7 May
FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 6 May
New England QSO Party, 20:00 UTC 6 May to 05:00 UTC 7 May and 13:00 - 24:00 UTC 7 May



HF Happenings

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter